

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [13], [15], [16], [50], [61], and [67] with the following corresponding amended paragraph(s):

[13] Since Layer 1 physical connectivity is made between ports via port connectors, a hybrid type of connectivity including:

- POS data links between a corresponding unchannelized POS physical port at one end and a corresponding channel on a channelized POS port at the other end, [[-]]

is enabled at Layer 1 by the use of intermediary devices providing multiplexing and demultiplexing functionality such as: add/drop multiplexers, resilient packet ring nodes, etc.

[15] [[*]]The number of POS links necessary to be set up and maintained increases with the migration of SONET technologies beyond the core of data transport networks as IP packet switching technologies are used to deploy end user services. The complexity of the connectivity of POS links therefore introduces a large overhead no longer lending itself to manual provisioning and management thereof.

[16] Further, the configuration physical Layer 1 complexity of POS ports into [[a]] channelized configurations or unchannelized configurations is relevant for POS data link connectivity at set-up. However, as it pertains to data network administration and management[[]], the actual physical port configuration, once physical and data link connectivity is established, has a lower importance in providing network management solutions.

[50] In accordance with the invention, if the port 320 is channelized, the connectivity information includes a channel specification 324. If the port 320 is unchannelized, the connectivity information includes a virtual channel specification 324. The virtual channel specification 324 is shown in FIG. 3 between parentheses for emphasis.

[61] In a process of displaying the topology of a data transport network 100 for data transport network management and administration, the data link records 200/300 ~~[[is]]~~are parsed to examine the entries 202/302. In examining each one of the data link entries 202/302 held therein, data network node specifications 212/312 are extracted and the corresponding nodes 108 displayed on the interface associated with the NMS system. Data links 402 are shown schematically connecting the end nodes 212/312 extracted. The schematic representation of each data link 402 may include the data link specifier 204/304 and perhaps the data link capacity 206/306.

[67] A channel record table representation 500 includes channel entries 502 corresponding to each channel in service. The channel record 500 is representative of global connectivity information held either centrally and/or distributed. The invention is not limited thereto, nodal channel records may also be maintained, either centrally and/or in a distributed fashion.